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## Justice Breyer to retire, giving Biden first court pick

By MARK SHERMAN and  
MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring, giving President Joe Biden an opening he has pledged to fill by naming the first Black woman to the high court.

Breyer, 83, has been a pragmatic force on a court that has grown increasingly conservative in recent years, trying to forge majorities with more moderate justices right and left of center.

Two sources confirmed the news to The Associated Press on Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity so as not to preempt Breyer's formal announcement.

Breyer has been a justice since 1994, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Along with the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Breyer opted not to step down the last time the Democrats controlled the White House and the Senate during Barack Obama's presidency. Ginsburg died in September 2020, and then-President Donald Trump filled the vacancy with a conservative justice, Amy Coney Barrett.

Breyer's departure, expected over the summer, won't change the 6-3 conservative advantage on the court because his replacement will be nominated by Biden and almost certainly confirmed by a Senate where Democrats have the slimmest majority. It also will



Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer listens during a forum at the French Cultural Center in Boston, Feb. 13, 2017.

Associated Press

make conservative Justice Clarence Thomas the oldest member of the court. Thomas turns 74 in June.

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# Justice Breyer to retire, giving Biden first court pick

Continued from Front

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Biden's nominee "will receive a prompt hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee and will be considered and confirmed by the full United States Senate with all deliberate speed." Republicans who changed the Senate rules during the Trump era to allow simple majority confirmation of Supreme Court nominees appeared resigned to the outcome.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement: "If all Democrats hang together — which I expect they will — they have the power to replace Justice Breyer in 2022 without one Republican vote in support."

Liberal interest groups expressed relief. They had been clamoring for Breyer's retirement for the past year, concerned about confirmation troubles if Republicans retake the Senate.

"Justice Breyer's retirement is coming not a moment too soon, but now we must make sure our party remains united in support of confirming his successor," Demand Justice Executive Director Brian Fallon said.

Among the names being circulated as potential nominees are California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger, U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, prominent civil rights lawyer Sherrilyn Ifill and U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs, whom Biden has nominated to be an appeals court judge. Childs is a favorite of Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., who made a crucial endorsement of

Biden just before South Carolina's presidential primary in 2020.

Biden has been focused on filling federal judicial nominations with a more diverse group of judges, and the Supreme Court has not been top of mind during his first year in office, according to White House aides and allies. A decision on a nominee has not been made yet, they said, and is expected to take a few weeks. But Biden has expanded his pool of applicants by naming more Black women to the bench. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Twitter: "It has always been the decision of any Supreme Court Justice if and when they decide to retire, and how they want to announce it, and that remains the case today. We have no additional details or information to share from @WhiteHouse."

Often overshadowed by his fellow liberal Ginsburg, Breyer authored two major opinions in support of abortion rights on a court closely divided over the issue, and he laid out his growing discomfort with the death penalty in a series of dissenting opinions in recent years.

Breyer's views on displaying the Ten Commandments on government property illustrate his search for a middle ground. He was the only member of the court in the majority in both cases in 2005 that barred Ten Commandments displays in two Kentucky courthouses but allowed one to remain on the grounds of the state Capitol in Austin, Texas.

In more than 27 years on the court, Breyer has been an active and cheerful questioner during arguments, a frequent public speaker and quick with a joke, often at his own expense. He made a good natured appearance on a humorous National Public Radio program in 2007, failing to answer obscure questions about pop stars. He is known for his elaborate, at times far-fetched, hypothetical questions to lawyers during arguments

and he sometimes has had the air of an absent-minded professor. He taught antitrust law at Harvard earlier in his professional career. He also spent time working for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy when the Massachusetts Democrat was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. That experience, Breyer said, made him a firm believer in compromise.

Still, he could write fierce dissents, as he did in the Bush v. Gore case that effectively decided the 2000 election in favor of Republican George W. Bush.

Breyer unsuccessfully urged his colleagues to return the case to the Florida courts so they could create "a constitutionally proper contest" by which to decide the winner.

And at the end of a trying term in June 2007 in which he found himself on the losing end of roughly two dozen 5-4 rulings, his frustrations bubbled over as he summarized his dissent from a decision that invalidated public school integration plans.

"It is not often that so few have so quickly changed so much," Breyer said in

a packed courtroom, an ad-libbed line that was not part of his opinion.

His time working in the Senate led to his appointment by President Jimmy Carter as a federal appeals court judge in Boston, and he was confirmed with bipartisan support even after Carter's defeat for reelection in 1980. Breyer served for 14 years on the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before moving up to the Supreme Court.

His 87-9 high-court confirmation was the last with fewer than 10 dissenting votes.

Breyer's opinions were notable because they never contained footnotes. He was warned off such a writing device by Arthur Goldberg, the Supreme Court justice for whom Breyer clerked as a young lawyer. "It is an important point to make if you believe, as I do, that the major function of an opinion is to explain to the audience of readers why it is that the court has reached that decision," Breyer once said. "It's not to prove that you're right. You can't prove that you're right; there is no such proof."

Born in San Francisco, Breyer became an Eagle Scout as a teenager and began a stellar academic career at Stanford, graduating with highest honors. He attended Oxford, where he received first-class honors in philosophy, politics and economics.

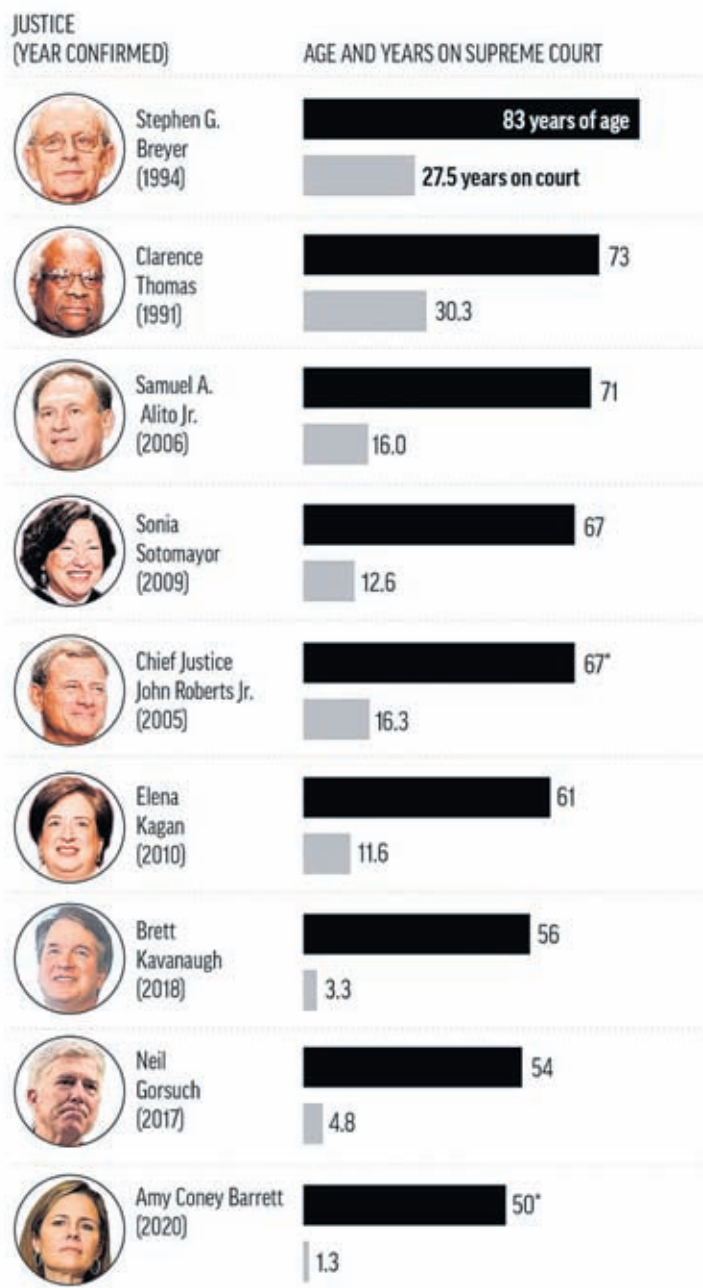
Breyer then attended Harvard Law School, where he worked on the Law Review and graduated with highest honors.

Breyer's first job after law school was as a law clerk to Goldberg. He then worked in the Justice Department's antitrust division before splitting time as a Harvard law professor and a lawyer for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Breyer and his wife, Joanna, a psychologist and daughter of the late British Conservative leader John Blakenham, have three children — daughters Chloe and Nell and a son, Michael — and six grandchildren. □

## Breyer, oldest justice, stepping down

Stephen Breyer, who is retiring from the Supreme Court, is its oldest sitting justice and is second only to Clarence Thomas in years served on the court.



\*John Roberts turns 67 Jan. 27; Amy Coney Barrett turns 50 Jan. 28.

Source: Supreme Court

AP

Stephen Breyer is the oldest of the sitting Supreme Court justices. Associated Press Graphic





# Vaccine mandate to kick in for first wave of health workers

By DAVID A. LIEB and  
HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH  
Associated Press

Health care workers in about half the states face a Thursday deadline to get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine under a Biden administration mandate that will be rolled out across the rest of the country in the coming weeks.

While the requirement is welcomed by some, others fear it will worsen already serious staff shortages if employees quit rather than comply.

"We would like to see staff vaccinated. We think that it's the safest option for residents, which is our biggest concern," said Marjorie Moore, executive director of VOYCE, a St. Louis County, Missouri, nonprofit that works on behalf of nursing home residents. "But not having staff is also a really big concern, because the neglect that happens as a result of that is severe and very scary."

The mandate affects a wide swath of the health care industry, covering doctors, nurses, technicians, aides and even volunteers at hospitals, nursing homes, home-health agencies and other providers that participate in the federal Medicare or Medicaid programs.

It comes as many places are stretched thin by the omicron surge, which is



Cristina Licup receives her COVID-19 booster shot where she works at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale in New York, Monday, Sept. 27, 2021.

putting record numbers of people in the hospital with COVID-19 while sickening many health workers.

Nationwide, about 81% of nursing home staff members already were fully vaccinated as of earlier this month, ranging from a high of 98% in Rhode Island to a low of 67% in Missouri, according to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The data is unclear about the vaccination levels in hospitals and other health care sites.

The mandate ultimately will cover 10.4 million health care workers at 76,000 facilities.

It is taking effect first in jurisdictions that didn't challenge the requirement in court. Those include some of the biggest states, with some of the largest populations of senior citizens, among them: California, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

"There absolutely have been employee resignations because of vaccination requirements," said Catherine Barbieri, a Philadelphia attorney who represents health care providers. But "I think it's relatively small."

At Wilson Medical Center in rural Neodesha, Kansas,

three of the roughly 180 employees are quitting, and several others have sought exemptions from the vaccine mandate, said hospital spokeswoman Janice Reese.

"We are very fortunate that that is all we are losing," she said, noting that the hospital was not in favor of the mandate. "We didn't feel like it was our place to actually try to tell a person what they had to do."

Reese said the vaccine requirement could also make it more difficult for the hospital to fill vacancies.

In Florida, medical centers find themselves between

dueling federal and state vaccination policies.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican who has waged a legal campaign against coronavirus mandates, last year signed legislation that forces businesses with vaccine requirements to let workers opt out for medical reasons, religious beliefs, immunity from a previous infection, regular testing or an agreement to wear protective gear. Businesses that fail to comply can be fined \$10,000 to \$50,000 per violation. Asked if the state would pursue fines against hospitals that enforce the federal mandate, a spokeswoman for the Florida attorney general said all employee complaints "will be thoroughly reviewed by our office."

Some states already have their own vaccine requirements for health care workers. In California, for example, they have been required to be fully vaccinated since Sept. 30 and must get a booster by Feb. 1.

The federal mandate is "better late than never," said Sal Rosselli, president of the National Union of Healthcare Workers, which represents about 15,000 people in California. "But if it happened sooner, we wouldn't have gone through the surge, and a lot more people would be alive today." □

Associated Press

## Pelosi to seek reelection with Democratic majority at risk

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
AP Political Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Tuesday she will seek reelection, ending speculation that she would retire as Democrats face the threat of losing control of Congress in the 2022 midterms. "While we have made progress, much more needs to be done to improve people's lives," the 81-year-old Pelosi said in an online video. "This election is crucial. Nothing less is at stake than our democracy," she added.

By announcing she would seek a 19th term, Pelosi avoids becoming a lame duck in a year when Democrats are clinging to a fragile majority in the House and the party is under pressure to raise vast sums of money to defend control of Congress. Her decision to remain in the chamber follows announcements by 29 House Democrats that they won't seek reelection this year, compared to 13 Republicans as the GOP looks toward taking back the House.

The party that controls the

White House typically loses seats in Congress in mid-term elections, and Democrats are defending both chambers at a time when President Joe Biden's approval rating has been slipping. "Our democracy is at risk because the assault on the truth, assault on the U.S. Capitol and the state-by-state assault on voting rights," she added.

In the video, Pelosi never addresses if she intends to seek another term as the House's Democratic leader, if reelected.

The San Francisco Demo-



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks during her weekly press conference, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

crat made history 15 years ago when she became the first female speaker of the House. She has served in Congress since 1987.

Earlier this month in an interview with The Associated Press, Pelosi only hinted at another run, saying she "may" seek reelection. □



# Situation 'dire' as Coast Guard seeks 38 missing off Florida

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**  
**Associated Press**

**MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)** —

The Coast Guard battled time and currents Wednesday as its planes and ships searched for 38 people missing off the coast of Florida, four days after a suspected human smuggling boat capsized in a storm. The accident killed at least one person and left a single known survivor, and U.S. authorities launched a criminal investigation.

Capt. Jo-Ann F. Burdian said the survivor told rescuers that the boat capsized Saturday evening shortly after sailing from the Bahamas into a storm. The Coast Guard was alerted Tuesday morning after the crew of a merchant vessel spotted the man sitting alone on the overturned hull of the 25-foot boat. He was taken to a hospital with symptoms of dehydration and sun exposure and turned over to Homeland Security officials, who said he is "conscious and lucid."

Burdian said finding other migrants alive is urgent.

"With every moment that passes, it becomes much more dire and more unlikely" that survivors will be found, she told a news conference.

Crews searched around the clock, extrapolating from where the wreck was spotted about 40 miles (64 kilometers) off Fort Pierce. By Wednesday morning,



**U.S. Coast Guard Captain Jo-Ann F. Burdian details the search of 38 missing migrants at a news conference, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, in Miami Beach, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

crews on at least four ships and five aircraft scanned a vast area about the size of New Jersey, Burdian said. They planned to keep searching throughout the day and then reevaluate.

"We are using every piece of information we can to make sure we are exhausting our search efforts," Burdian said. "But we can't search forever."

The weather forecast through Thursday calls for scattered rain and thunderstorms in the search area, with swells cresting at 2 to 3 feet (1 meter) and winds blowing at 12 to 15 mph (19 to 24 kph). The National Weather Service described

conditions as "relatively benign" until a strong cold front arrives on Friday.

Homeland Security Investigations opened the criminal probe, said Anthony Salisbury, special agent in charge of agency's Miami office. The effort includes U.S. agents in the Bahamas. "You're dealing with criminal organizations that have no value for human life or safety. It's really victimizing the migrants. It's just about the money," he said.

Agents have interviewed the survivor, but Salisbury would not identify the man or his nationality, nor reveal the nationalities of any others believed to have been

on the vessel.

The rescued man told the Coast Guard he was part of a group of 40 people who left Bimini in the Bahamas, Burdian said. The man said the boat capsized shortly thereafter, and no one aboard was wearing a life jacket, she added.

A small craft advisory had been issued as a severe cold front blew through the dangerous passage on Saturday and Sunday, with winds up to 23 mph (37 kph) and swells up to 9 feet (3 meters). Tommy Sewell, a local fishing guide, said there were high winds and fierce rain squalls from Sunday into Monday.

Burdian would not provide any more details, saying he's now in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security.

Bimini is a small cluster of islands about 55 miles (90 kilometers) east of Miami and about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of where the survivor was found. The capsized boat was apparently pushed north by the Gulf Stream, a warm, swift current that wraps around the Florida peninsula and flows north along the Atlantic Coast of the United States.

Migrants from around the world have long used the Bahamas as a stepping-stone to reach Florida and the United States. They typically try to take advantage of breaks in the weather to make the crossing, but the vessels are often dangerously overloaded and prone to capsizing. There have been thousands of deaths over the years.

For the most part, these migrants are from Haiti and Cuba, but the Royal Bahamas Defense Force has reported apprehending migrants from other parts of the world, including from Colombia and Ecuador earlier this month.

The Bahamas and nearby Turks and Caicos Islands have in recent years stepped up their anti-smuggling enforcement efforts in cooperation with the Coast Guard. □



**In this May 27, 2021, file photo, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo speaks during a news conference honoring nine people killed by a coworker in San Jose, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — A gun rights group and a gun owner have filed a lawsuit against a California city for a newly passed ordinance

requiring citizens to obtain firearm liability insurance and pay an annual fee.

The National Association for Gun Rights and gun owner

## Gun rights group sues California city over liability law

Mark Sikes sued San Jose in federal court Tuesday after City Council members voted to approve the ordinance believed to be the first measure of its kind in the United States. Sikes is from San Jose.

"The law is unconstitutional," Harmeet Dhillon, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said Wednesday. "The law compels people to purchase insurance that doesn't necessarily exist and that demonstrates that this law is not a good faith attempt to do anything oth-

er than ban or burden the lawful possession of guns." The San Jose City Council overwhelmingly approved the measure despite opposition from gun owners who said it would violate their Second Amendment rights. Dhillon said the law also infringes on the First Amendment by compelling gun owners to pay an annual fee to a not-yet-formed nonprofit that could promote a message they don't agree with.

"The Ordinance even prohibits the city from directing

how the non-profit would use the funds. The one thing that is clear is that the organization will likely be dedicated to exclusively preaching the negative risks of gun ownership," the lawsuit says.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said that having liability insurance would encourage people in the 55,000 households in San Jose who legally own at least one registered gun to have gun safes, install trigger locks and take gun safety classes. □



# Netherlands, Ukraine take Russia to European rights court

By **MIKE CORDER**

**Associated Press**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The Netherlands and Ukraine argued Wednesday that a top European court should hear their cases that seek to hold Russia responsible for human rights violations in eastern Ukraine including the 2014 downing of a passenger jet that killed all 298 people on board.

Lawyers representing the Dutch government told the European Court of Human Rights in the French city of Strasbourg that Russia had effective control over rebel forces in eastern Ukraine when Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down on July 17, 2014.

The preliminary hearing into whether the Ukraine and Dutch cases against Russia are admissible opened amid soaring tensions between Russia and the West over Moscow's huge troop buildup near the border with Ukraine and fears of conflict. Ukrainian Justice Minister Denys Maliuska told the court that the events in eastern Ukraine and Crimea in 2014 foreshadowed the current crisis. He told the court his country faces "a consistent or



**This Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015 file photo, shows the reconstructed wreckage of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, put on display during a press conference in Gilze-Rijen, central Netherlands.**

**Associated Press**

long-term policy of the Russian Federation aimed at bending Ukraine to the Russian interests and swaying it away from its path towards Western values and civilization. This policy continues up until now."

An international investigation concluded that a Buk missile transported from a Russian military base into Ukraine brought down the Boeing 777 that was heading from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. The missile

launch system was then driven back to Russia, the investigation found. At the time, pro-Russian separatists were battling Ukrainian forces in the country's east. Dutch lawyer Babette Koopman said the Dutch government had concluded that the missile launch system "was provided by Russia with a crew to the separatists. The Buk missile was launched from an area under the effective control of

Russia and by, or at least with the assistance of, Russian state agents."

Koopman told judges that relatives of the plane's dead are still waiting for an admission of responsibility and the fact that none has been made "has added and continues to add to the already tremendous grief of the next of kin."

Maliuska went to the court to personally argue his government's case. He told judges that after Russia's

annexation of Crimea in 2014, Moscow used "this same traveling circus of professional separatists" in eastern Ukraine.

Russia denies any involvement and its lawyer Mikhail Vinogradov urged the court to declare the cases inadmissible.

If the Dutch and Ukrainian cases are deemed admissible by the court's judges, they will likely take years to reach a conclusion.

Relatives of some of the victims were in court Wednesday. Before the hearing, they held up a banner outside that read "Waiting for answers and accountability" printed over the flight number "MH17."

Three Russians and a Ukrainian are on trial in the Netherlands for their alleged roles in the downing in a criminal case that is separate from the hearings in Strasbourg. None of the four have appeared for trial in the Netherlands.

In a statement, Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra called Wednesday's hearing "an important step in the Netherlands' pursuit of justice for the victims and their next of kin. That is and will remain a priority for the government." □

## EU leaders worried by rise in antisemitism, Holocaust denial

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — European Union leaders pledged Wednesday to confront the rise of antisemitism and Holocaust denial witnessed during the coronavirus pandemic, on the eve of the annual commemorations of Auschwitz's liberation. European Council President Charles Michel said the lessons of the Holocaust are now "more relevant than ever."

"First, because Jewish people feel threatened, and they are threatened," he said. "They are even attacked in Europe. Just because they are Jewish. We do not accept this. We will never accept it."

Michel spoke at an online

event organized by the European Jewish Congress, which was also attended by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola.

The Commission — the EU's executive branch — presented last year a new strategy to better tackle hate speech, raise awareness about Jewish life, protect places of worship and ensure that the Holocaust isn't forgotten. According to Europe's Fundamental Rights Agency, nine out of 10 Jews think antisemitism has increased in their country and is a serious problem. With the wide circulation of false information about the Holocaust on the internet,

European Jewish Congress President Moshe Kantor cited the big amount of time spent online during the coronavirus pandemic as one of the reasons for the rise in antisemitism.

"We have to understand better their concerns and aspirations and speak to them in their language," he said. "There has been a tsunami of lies about Jews, Israel and the Holocaust over the last couple of years, so we have to create new strategies to reach those who are consuming this information innocently."

With France holding the EU's rotating presidency, the European Jewish Congress' ceremony focused on the Holocaust is in France, on the 80th anni-



**A person walks behind the gate of the Sachsenhausen Nazi death camp with the phrase 'Arbeit macht frei' (work sets you free) in Oranienburg, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

versary of the Velodrome d'Hiver round-up, a mass arrest of Jews by French police in Paris in 1942.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he has taken action to dissolve groups promoting hatred and deplored that "falsifications of history are back."

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many International Holocaust Remem-

brance Day commemorations Thursday will be held online this year again. A small ceremony, however, will take place at the site of the former Auschwitz death camp, where World War II Nazi German forces killed 1.1 million people in occupied Poland. The memorial site was closed earlier in the pandemic but reopened in June. □



# Indonesia's capital is sinking, polluted and now moving

By **EDNA TARIGAN and NINIEK KARMINI**  
**Associated Press**

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)** — Jakarta is congested, polluted, prone to earthquakes and rapidly sinking into the Java Sea. Now the government is leaving, and moving the country's capital to the island of Borneo. President Joko Widodo envisions the construction of a new capital as a panacea for the problems plaguing Jakarta, reducing its population while allowing the country to start fresh with a "sustainable city" that has good public transportation, is integrated with its natural environment and is in an area that's not prone to natural disasters.

"The construction of the new capital city is not merely a physical move of government offices," Widodo said last week ahead of parliament's approval of the plan. "The main goal is to build a smart new city, a new city that is competitive at the global level, to build a new locomotive for the transformation ... toward an Indonesia based on innovation and technology based on a green economy."

Skeptics worry, however, about the environmental impact of plunking a sprawling 256,000-hectare (990 square mile) city down in Borneo's East Kalimantan province, which is home to orangutans, leopards and



**A woman carries her baby outside of her house in a low-income neighborhood next to a polluted city canal in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.**

a wide array of other wildlife, as well as committing \$34 billion to the ambitious project amid a global pandemic.

"The new capital city's strategic environmental study shows that there are at least three basic problems," said Dwi Sawung, an official with the WALHI environmental group.

"There are threats to water systems and risks of climate change, threats to flora and fauna, and threats of pollution and environmental damage," she said.

First proposed in 2019, Widodo's plan to establish the city of Nusantara — an old Javanese term meaning

"archipelago" — will entail constructing government buildings and housing from scratch. Initial estimates were that some 1.5 million civil servants would be relocated to the city, some 2,000 kilometers northeast of Jakarta, though ministries and government agencies are still working to finalize that number.

It will be located in the vicinity of Balikpapan, an East Kalimantan seaport with a population of about 700,000.

Indonesia is an archipelago nation of more than 17,000 islands, but currently 54% of the country's more than 270 million people

live on Java, the country's most densely populated island and where Jakarta is located.

Jakarta itself is home to about 10 million people and three times that number in the greater metropolitan area.

It has been described as the world's most rapidly sinking city, and at the current rate, it is estimated that one-third of the city could be submerged by 2050. The main cause is uncontrolled ground water extraction, but it has been exacerbated by the rising Java Sea due to climate change.

Beyond that, its air and ground water are heav-

ily polluted, it floods regularly and its streets are so clogged that it is estimated congestion costs the economy \$4.5 billion a year.

In constructing a purpose-built capital, Indonesia will be taking a path that others have in the past, including Pakistan, Brazil and Myanmar.

The committee overseeing the construction is led by Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — no stranger to ambitious building projects at home in the United Arab Emirates — and also includes Masayoshi Son, the billionaire founder and chief executive of Japanese holding company SoftBank, and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who currently runs the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

State funds will pay for 19% of the project, with the rest coming from cooperation between the government and business entities and from direct investment by state-run companies and the private sector.

Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono said initial planning had been carried out by clearing 56,180 hectares (138,800 acres) of land to build the presidential palace, the national parliament and government offices, as well as roads linking the capital to other cities in East Kalimantan. □

**Associated Press**



**In this image made from video, people stand on an overturned vehicle swept by flooding waters in Chikwawa, Malawi, Tuesday Jan. 25, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

By **A. NHAMPOSSA**

**Associated Press**

**MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP)**

— Mozambique, Madagas-

car and Malawi are counting the deaths and damage by tropical storm Ana and more than a week of

## Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar count deaths, damage by storm

heavy rains across southern Africa.

In central and northern Mozambique at least 11 people have died, including children and elderly, and several bridges and roads have been washed away, according to a statement from Mozambique's disaster management authority. Among the dead is the administrator of the northwestern city of Tete whose vehicle was swept away on Tuesday by the surging waters of the Revuboe River as he was going to

inspect a bridge that had been closed by the flooding. Minutes after his vehicle was taken, the middle section of the bridge was swept away, according to reports in local media.

Bridges were also damaged in Mozambique's Zambezia province where many residential areas are cut off by the high waters and there are reports of people on roofs calling for help. Electricity has also been cut off to large parts of Mozambique and Malawi as pylons have been

knocked over by flooding waters and hydro turbines have been clogged by large piles of debris carried by the waters. Although Ana has weakened to become a moderate tropical depression, much of the southern African region continues to get torrential rains. Prolonged rains have increased the damage in Madagascar, where the death toll has risen to 39 and more than 101,000 people have been made homeless by the flooding, said officials. □



## Journalists across Mexico protest killings of 3 this year

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Demonstrations were held Tuesday in more than a dozen cities across Mexico to protest the killings of three journalists in the last two weeks.

In the border city of Tijuana, two journalists have been killed in the space of a week. On Jan. 17, crime photographer Margarito Martínez was gunned down outside his home. And on Jan. 23, reporter Lourdes Maldonado López was found shot to death inside her car.

Dozens of reporters, photographers and supporters marched down a central boulevard in Tijuana in the evening, holding up signs with slogans like "Stop the Killing of Journalists, Not One More Death!"

Early Tuesday, news photographers laid their cameras on the ground outside Mexico City's National Palace. The spot was decorated with flowers, small signs saying "Press, don't shoot!" and photos of Maldonado, Martínez, and José Luis Gamboa, who was killed in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz on Jan. 10.

Inside the palace, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador faced journalists at his daily news briefing and promised again those responsible for the latest slaying would be punished, that there would not be impunity.

But precedent is not en-



People and journalists join a national protest against the murder of journalist Lourdes Maldonado and freelance photojournalist Margarito Martínez, outside the attorney general's office in Tijuana, Mexico, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

couraging. López Obrador's Interior Undersecretary Alejandro Encinas said recently that more than 90% of murders of journalists and rights defenders remain unresolved, despite a government system meant to protect them.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists puts the percentage at 95%, said its Mexico representative Jan-Albert Hootsen.

Later Tuesday, a couple of hundred journalists gathered in protest in front of the Interior Department headquarters in Mexico City. Some held candles in

silent vigil, others signs demanding a halt to the killings and saying "I am outraged by silence."

Photos of murdered journalists were projected onto the building's facade. Journalists chanted "Justice!" and "You are not alone!"

Laura Sanchez, a journalist from Baja California living in Mexico City, recounted some of the journalist murders in Tijuana over the years. She ridiculed the government program that is supposed to protect journalists, noting that Margarito Martínez was killed in the middle of the day and Lourdes Maldonado dur-

ing the evening in Tijuana's most populous neighborhood.

The government program often gives journalists a button fob that can sound an emergency alarm, but some say it is useless.

"What they give us is a damned panic button, and you know what that button is? It is the number of the municipal police supervisor who is corrupt and sold out," Sanchez said.

Protests were also held in the states of Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, Durango and Nayarit, with dozens of journalists gathering under placards reading "Not one

more journalist killed," and "The Truth can't be killed."

Mexico remains the most dangerous place in the Western Hemisphere for journalists, despite the government's pledge to protect them. Some of the journalists killed recently had been under a government protection program that many say is insufficient. In 2019, Maldonado came to López Obrador's daily morning news briefing and asked for his support, help and labor justice. "Because I fear for my life," she said.

Maldonado had been locked in a years-long labor dispute with Jaime Bonilla, who was elected governor of Baja California later that year as a candidate from López Obrador's Morena party. He left office late last year.

Maldonado had recently announced that she won her dispute with a media company Bonilla owned after nine years of litigation. Maldonado had collaborated with many outlets, but recently was doing an internet, radio and television show, "Brebaje," focused on local news.

Martínez, the photographer gunned down outside his home, was well-known for covering the crime scene in violence-plagued Tijuana. He worked for the local news outlet Cadena Noticias, as well as for other national and international media outlets. □

## Ex-senator, presidential candidate deported to Haiti from U.S.

By **HAROLD ISAAC**  
Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Former Haitian senator and presidential candidate Moïse Jean-Charles told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he was arrested in the U.S. and deported to Haiti.

Jean-Charles spoke briefly as he arrived at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in the capital of Port-au-Prince, looking distraught. It wasn't immediately clear why he was deported or whether he

faces any charges.

He said U.S. authorities detained him on Monday as he returned from Nigeria and interrogated him about his recent trip to Africa. He said he spent the night in jail and was deported on Tuesday.

"They've forbidden me from entering the U.S. for the next five years," he said. "They've cancelled the visa and they've put me in jail. It's a humiliating thing."

The arrest prompted a small protest in the Port-

au-Prince neighborhood of Delmas 47, where some people burned tires and threw rocks at passing cars. Jean-Charles ran for president in 2015 and 2016 against opponents including slain President Jovenel Moïse, who was shot July 7 at his private residence. Jean-Charles was previously a senator and also served as mayor for the northern town of Milot, near where Moïse was born.

Late last year, he called on the administration of Prime Minister Ariel Henry to re-



Former Haitian senator and presidential candidate Moïse Jean-Charles speaks to the press at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

solve the country's rising insecurity as soon as possible so it can hold elections and

address major issues including unemployment and kidnapping. □




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## Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food

**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the rest-rooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where **ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.**

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by

France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with



social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation:



Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Chef's Sunday

Tina: "Every Sunday Papillon offers you an exquisite meal option: a 4 -course Chef's Menu with wine pairing for \$100 per person. With regards to the man in the kitchen we have the best of the best: chef Martijn Liebrechts from The Netherlands. He has earned his spurs among others in Amber; one of the best French fine dining restaurant's Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin- stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Moving back to Amsterdam he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant "Wilde Zwijnen", which was awarded the title "The New Dutch Cuisine" by the New York Times. So you see, this is the time to come over and reserve your table."

### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: twice a week you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo or the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only. Wednesdays chill away on the French lounge tunes of DJ Ibarra and Tuesdays Jose Herrera enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

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Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too." What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

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## Snakes of Aruba

**ORANJESTAD —** Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake *Crotalus unicolor*. This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'.

### Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it. Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of

the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local per-

ception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts. □

### CASCABEL (*Crotalus unicolor*)



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## History of fishing in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.**

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz

all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

**Fisherman Gregory Wernet**  
Gregory Wernet is a well-



known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and

load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use

for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

**Source: Etnia Nativa**





# Traded cryptocurrency in 2021? Here's how to approach taxes

By **SABRINA PARYS**  
of **NerdWallet**

Professionals have a major piece of advice for those who traded cryptocurrency for the first time last year: Take your tax prep seriously. The IRS has been zooming in on cryptocurrency reporting with increasing interest in recent years. And the last thing you want is to lose money and time reconciling your tax liability, says Douglas Boneparth, a New York City-based certified financial planner. So as tax season gets into full swing, here's a quick guide to which cryptocurrency activity is reportable, how it's generally taxed and the best ways to prepare.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO REPORT TO THE IRS

The IRS treats virtual currencies as property, which means they're taxed similarly to stocks. If all you did was purchase cryptocurrency with U.S. dollars, and those assets have been sitting untouched in an exchange or your cryptocurrency wallet, you shouldn't need to worry about reporting to the IRS this year. Reporting is required when certain events come into play, most commonly:

- Trading one cryptocurrency for another.
- Selling cryptocurrency for fiat dollars (government-issued currency).
- Using cryptocurrency to buy goods or services (e.g., paying for a cup of coffee with cryptocurrency).

A critical distinction to make is that triggering a taxable event doesn't nec-



In this Feb. 9, 2021, file photo, the Bitcoin logo appears on the display screen of a cryptocurrency ATM in Salem, N.H.

essarily mean you'll owe taxes, says Andrew Gordon, an Illinois-based certified public accountant and tax attorney. Just because you have to report a transaction doesn't mean you'll end up owing the IRS for it.

## HOW CRYPTOCURRENCY IS TAXED

Anytime you sell an asset for a profit, your resulting gain may be subject to capital gains taxation. To determine your exact gain or loss, you'll need the date you acquired the cryptocurrency; the date you sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of it; and the cost basis (the amount you paid plus transaction fees). Gains are then taxed at either the short- or long-term rate, depending on how long you held the asset.

Short-term gains for assets held less than a year are taxed as ordinary income, while long-term gains for assets held more than a year are generally taxed at 0%, 15% or 20%, depending on your taxable income and filing status.

For example, say you purchased \$2,000 worth of a cryptocurrency in January 2021 and sold it two months later for \$5,000. That \$3,000 capital gain would be subject to the short-term capital gains rate.

Once you've calculated your gains and losses on Form 8949, you'll need to report them on Schedule D of Form 1040.

## HOW TO PREPARE

### 1. BE HONEST

If you omit information on your taxes, there's a risk of penalties, fees and, in se-

vere cases, even tax evasion charges. And with the revision of Form 1040, which now features a direct yes-or-no question on whether you received, sold, exchanged or disposed of cryptocurrency, the IRS is signaling that those who fail to report won't be able to feign ignorance, Gordon says.

### 2. GET YOUR RECORDS IN ORDER

Cryptocurrency exchanges won't be required to send taxpayers 1099-B forms, also known as tax-reporting summaries, until the 2023 tax year. So the onus is on traders to keep accurate records of their transactions. Many exchanges, such as Coinbase, allow you to download your trading history, which might make it easier for you, tax

software or a tax preparer to calculate gains and losses. If you made trades off-exchange, though, you might need to set aside some additional time for digging.

### 3. CONSIDER USING TRACKING TOOLS

Reporting a single trade on one exchange likely won't be difficult. But a "typical taxpayer has three to five wallets and exchanges," according to Shehan Chandrasekera, CPA and head of tax strategy for CoinTracker. This makes it harder to reconcile cost basis across varying platforms. If you're an active trader, it might make sense to invest in software that can help track your transactions.

### 4. HIRE A PROFESSIONAL

If your tax situation is complex, consider working with a cryptocurrency-savvy tax professional. They can guide you through the various accounting strategies the IRS permits for reconciling your gains and losses, and help determine which one makes the most sense for you.

### 5. MAKE LOSSES WORK IN YOUR FAVOR

If you didn't take advantage of tax-minimization strategies last year — such as tax-loss harvesting, gifting or donating — but you realized losses, you still have a chance to lower your tax bill. Just as with stocks, if you sold a currency at a lower value than what you paid for it, you may be able to deduct up to \$3,000 of those losses on your taxes. □

# WTO ruling finds China can penalize \$645M worth of U.S. goods

**GENEVA (AP)** — A World Trade Organization arbitrator has decided that China can impose retaliatory tariffs on imports from the United States totaling up to \$645 million a year, capping a decade-long dispute over U.S. duties on some Chinese goods. The dollar-value award issued Wednesday follows a decision in July 2019 from

the WTO's dispute resolution process, which the United States has since gummed up by refusing to allow for new judges to be appointed to its body that acts as a sort of appeals court. China had originally sought an award of \$2.4 billion per year, while the U.S. had argued that fair compensation would have totaled no more than \$106

million annually. The ruling allows China to take action to balance out what the WTO ruled were unfair U.S. fees on some Chinese goods, including thermal paper, solar panels, wind towers, steel sinks and several types of pipes. The standoff pre-dates a string of trade disputes between the United States and China through the WTO during



Container ship Ever Far, left, sails down river past the Georgia Ports Authority's Port of Savannah, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, in Savannah, Ga.

Associated Press

the Trump administration. China still has not applied retaliatory penalties on U.S. goods up to an amount of

nearly \$3.6 billion that were authorized by a WTO arbitrator in a separate decision in November 2019. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Censor's

1 Hardly a sound

6 Unstated sign

11 Skip the ceremony

12 Eat away

13 Turn red, maybe

14 Johnson's successor

15 Looked lewdly

17 Eastern "way"

19 Drenched

20 Frilly wrap

23 Bible prophet

25 Office leader

26 It ends at 4 a.m., on a boat

28 March 15, e.g.

29 Heart connections

30 German article

31 Feasted

32 Hosp. areas

33 Soft metal

35 Long cars

38 One-masted sailboat

41 San Antonio sight

42 Bea Arthur series

## DOWN

1 That

2 Boxing great

3 Washing machine type

4 Fencing sword

5 Magazine order

6 Doctrine

7 Parched

8 Rowing team

9 Marrying words

10 Toe count

S	E	P	A	L		S	H	A	M
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L	O	O	T	S		K	A	B	U
I	S	L	E		F	I	N	I	T
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C	O	P	E			S	T	O	N

## Yesterday's answer

16 Prepares

17 Retiring

18 Digression

20 Reach

21 Film prize

22 Arson

24 Some

25 Butter

27 Signed

31 Man of

33 Show up

34 — Bator

35 Research

36 Suffering

37 Writer Rita

— Brown

39 Dedicated

40 For each

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
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35	36	37			38			39	40
41					42				
43					44				

1-27

AXYDLBAAXR  
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-27

## CRYPTOQUOTE

U Z X O B H X G R E Z U Y J N

Y R R B Z Y F C O I O B S R B Z L E O U

Q G J C Y H Z R O H U Z T J C

— Y B J C T B V Z E X L O B V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE STUPID NEITHER FORGIVE NOR FORGET; THE NAIVE FORGIVE AND FORGET; THE WISE FORGIVE BUT DO NOT FORGET. — THOMAS SZASZ

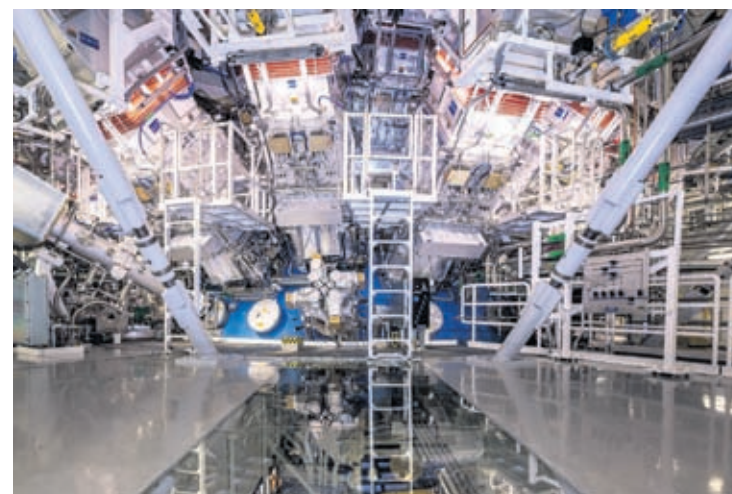
# Hot stuff: Lab hits milestone on long road to fusion power

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP Science Writer

With 192 lasers and temperatures more than three times hotter than the center of the sun, scientists hit — at least for a fraction of a second — a key milestone on the long road toward nearly pollution-free fusion energy.

Researchers at the National Ignition Facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in California were able to spark a fusion reaction that briefly sustained itself — a major feat because fusion requires such high temperatures and pressures that it easily fizzles out.

The ultimate goal, still years away, is to generate power the way the sun generates heat, by smooching hydrogen atoms so close to each other that they combine into helium, which releases torrents of energy.



This image provided by the National Ignition Facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory shows the NIF Target Bay in Livermore, Calif.

Associated Press

A team of more than 100 scientists published the results of four experiments that achieved what is known as a burning plasma in Wednesday's journal Nature. With those results, along with preliminary results announced last August from follow-up experiments, scientists say they are on the threshold of an even bigger advance: ignition. That's when the fuel can continue to "burn" on its own and produce more energy than what's needed to spark the initial reaction.

"We're very close to that next step," said study lead author Alex Zylstra, an experimental physicist at Livermore.

Nuclear fusion presses together two types of hydrogen found in water molecules. When they fuse, "a small amount (milligrams) of fuel produces enormous amounts of energy and it's also very 'clean' in that it produces no radioactive waste," said Carolyn Kuranz, a University of Michigan experimental plasma physicist who wasn't part of the research.

"It's basically limitless, clean

energy that can be deployed anywhere," she said.

Researchers around the world have been working on the technology for decades, trying different approaches. Thirty-five countries are collaborating on a project in Southern France called the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor that uses enormous magnets to control the superheated plasma. That is expected to begin operating in 2026.

"The result is scientifically very exciting for us," said study co-author Omar Hurricane, chief scientist for Lawrence Livermore's fusion program. "But we're a long way from useful energy."

Maybe decades, he said. It's already taken several years inside a lab that is straight out of Star Trek — one of the movies used the lab as background visuals for the Enterprise's engine room — and many failed attempts to get to this point. One adjustment that helped: Researchers made the fuel capsule about 10% bigger. Now it's up to the size of a BB. □

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**Editor**  
**Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.**  
**Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668**  
**Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.**  
**Acc. #23951903**  
**RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772**

## Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

## Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

## Sales

Linda Reijnders

Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

## Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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## Brian Cox hopes memoir doesn't put 'full stop' on his life

By SIANWATSON

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Finishing a book is usually cause for celebration. Not for actor Brian Cox.

The book in question, "Putting the Rabbit in the Hat," out now, chronicles the actor's journey from humble beginnings in Dundee, Scotland, to being the toast of Hollywood, thanks to his Emmy nominated role in hit drama "Succession." He said completing the book caused him to sink into a depression over the Christmas and New Year period, adding that he hopes it "hasn't put a full stop" on his life.

"I was feeling, 'Is that all there is? That's the summation of my life?' I don't want it to be the summation of my life. I wanted it to be an illustration of where my life had gone to," said Cox, adding, "I'm sure there's more."

Despite his concerns, the veteran actor found the experience "liberating and cathartic," allowing him to honor his late parents, who Cox describes as "two very tragic figures in my life." His father, Charles, died when Cox was 8, and his mother, Mary Ann Guillerline, had several nervous break-



Actor Brian Cox attends HBO's "Succession" season 3 premiere in New York on Oct. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

downs.

Born in 1946, as one of five children, Cox describes his childhood as "bloody tough and bloody lonely" — and he thinks his struggles will surprise readers.

"I hope they're going to be surprised by my background. I hope they're going to be surprised about what a boy from the age of 8, from the age of 15, had to go through. And that, to me, is the most key thing about the book — just this kid who is literally abandoned by everybody, not

only through circumstance, it's nobody's fault," he said. Despite the hardships of his youth, Cox describes his journey into acting as smooth, thanks partly to the social mobility of the 1960s. He's not sure if working class actors would be afforded the same opportunities in 2022.

"God bless Dominic West and Benedict Cumberbatch and Eddie Redmayne and all that. And they've done very well. And I don't question their talent, they're certainly tal-

ented. But what about the others? What about the lost ones?" he said.

He jokes that people might also be surprised by his outspokenness throughout the book, but adds that "maybe some people think, 'Well, he's always had a big mouth, Cox, so it's understandable.'"

This outspokenness is echoed by Logan Roy — the foul-mouthed patriarch Cox plays in HBO's Emmy winning comedy "Succession." The success of the show has seen Roy's catch-

phrase follow him wherever he goes.

He said he recently went to a New York Knicks basketball game and a big section of the crowd serenaded him with one of Roy's more signature expletives. Cox said his Roman Catholic mother would be horrified that her son is now synonymous with an obscenity.

The writers of "Succession" are currently plotting season four and Cox is waiting to see what fate befalls Logan.

"I don't know what it's going to be, we never know until it is because that's not the deal. The deal is the scripts are out, you do it," said Cox, smiling.

He says that some of his fellow cast members lobby the writers with their ideas about character arcs for the upcoming series, which are "dutifully ignored," adding, "They never learn the lesson that the writers are not interested in what the actor wants to present for himself."

In fact, he is content with exactly how Logan is written: "There's a secret element to Logan that you can't really get into him. His mystery is quite important to me," he said. □



This combination photo shows Neil Young in Calabasas, Calif., on May 18, 2016, left, and UFC announcer and podcaster Joe Rogan before a UFC on FOX 5 event in Seattle on Dec. 7, 2012.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It's Neil Young vs. Joe Rogan for the allegiance of Spotify. Or is it?

The veteran rocker fired off a public missive to his management on Monday, de-

manding that they remove his music from Spotify in protest of Rogan spreading misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine on his popular podcast, "The Joe Rogan Experience."

But the letter soon disappeared from view on

## Neil Young reportedly fights Spotify over Rogan and COVID

Young's website, and on Tuesday afternoon music fans could still listen to "Heart of Gold," "Rockin' in the Free World" and other Young hits on the popular streaming site. Representatives for Young and Spotify did not return repeated requests for comment on Tuesday. In his letter, Young made the request because Spotify "is spreading false information about vaccines — potentially causing death to those who believe the disinformation," according to Rolling Stone magazine. Young said Spotify "can have Rogan or Young. Not both."

It may not be a choice Young's management would want to force. Ro-

gan's podcast is wildly popular on Spotify. The 76-year-old rocker's music has more than 6 million listeners, according to his artist's page on Spotify.

Rogan provoked anger within the past month for interviewing Dr. Robert Malone on his podcast. Malone, an infectious disease specialist, has been banned for Twitter for spreading misinformation but has become a hero in the anti-vaccine community. He has questioned the COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness and falsely suggested that millions of people had been hypnotized into believing that the vaccines work to prevent serious disease.

A group of doctors and sci-

entists have spread a petition online calling on Spotify to adopt policies to prevent the spread of misinformation on their platform.

Young has never been a rabid fan of Spotify. At his insistence, much of his music was removed from the platform for several months beginning in 2015 because of his concerns about audio quality. □



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# Winning ways: Are the Chiefs suddenly the NFL's new dynasty?

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** —

The Kansas City Chiefs have won six straight AFC West titles, something never before accomplished, and will be hosting a record fourth consecutive conference championship game when Cincinnati visits Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

They've been to the past two Super Bowls. Won a championship. Set so many league-best marks behind the unparalleled play of Patrick Mahomes and the brilliant coaching of Andy Reid that the rest of the NFL has ample reason to be jealous. So, are the Chiefs following in the footsteps of the Patriots as the next football dynasty?

Or, are they just the latest "it" team that everyone wants to watch?

"I think it was 2008 or 2009 that (Chiefs chairman) Clark Hunt made the statement that we're going to strive to create an organization that consistently competes for championships," team president Mark Donovan recalled this week, "and here we are, hosting our fourth straight championship. Never been done before. It's special times to be a Chiefs fan, and special times to be part of this organization. I know Andy says it, and I'll say it: We're grateful for this



**Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) celebrates with teammates after catching an 8-yard touchdown pass during overtime in an NFL divisional round playoff football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.**

Associated Press

opportunity we're given." Perhaps that's because they don't have to look far into their history to remember what it's like to live at the bottom.

When Hunt made that bold proclamation, the Chiefs were a floundering franchise that hadn't won a playoff game in more than two decades. And they hadn't even bottomed out, either. That came a few years later when, during a season in which a player killed himself in the practice facility parking lot, the Chiefs were the two-

win laughingstock of the league.

They soon began the search for a new coach, and in a case of coincidence or fate, the Eagles had just moved on from their own. Hunt quickly flew to Philadelphia and met with Reid, refused to let him out of the room without agreeing to come to Kansas City, and in one week-end changed the course of the organization.

The Chiefs went from two wins to 11 the very next year, one of the great turn-arounds in NFL history, and

haven't had another losing season. The past seven have ended in the playoffs, the past four in the conference championship game and, with a win over the Bengals on Sunday, the past three would be in the Super Bowl.

But is nearly a decade of relative dominance enough to call the Chiefs a dynasty?

Don't count on Reid to hazard a guess.

"Listen, I might down the road somewhere," he said of putting the past few years into perspective, "but

right now, we're moving onto Cincinnati. There's no time to wait. ... It's important that we got on that and make sure our bases are covered."

That doesn't mean others can't—and won't—opine on the subject. After all, dynasties are purely subjective. The textbook definition, at least from Merriam-Webster, is that they involve "a sports franchise which has a prolonged run of successful seasons," though in truth that doesn't define anything.

How successful? And for how long?

Here are some facts: The Chiefs have won six straight home playoff games, one of the 10 longest streaks since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. They are among seven franchises to reach four straight conference title games, and the first to host all of them. A third straight Super Bowl appearance would match the Dolphins of Don Shula in the early '70s and the Patriots of Bill Belichick from 2016-18 as the only franchises to make that many in a row with at least one victory.

(Yes, the Bills went to four straight Super Bowls. Without winning one, are they worthy of being called a dynasty?)

Of course, there are some NFL dynasties that are difficult to debate. □

## Off-line: Browns' Mayfield planning hiatus from social media

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — As he recovers from shoulder surgery, Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield plans to rest his thumbs as well. Mayfield said he's going to take a break from "all social media for the foreseeable future."

Ironically, the polarizing QB went on his Instagram page Wednesday to announce his hiatus from tweeting and posting.

"Gotta do what's best to focus on me, my family and loved ones," Mayfield wrote. "Appreciate all the support. Time to get right."

Mayfield concluded his message by also including a contact for anyone making business or mar-

keting inquiries. Mayfield recently concluded a dreadful, injury-filled fourth season with the Browns, who were among the NFL's most disappointing teams. Cleveland went 8-9, missed the playoffs and dealt with drama, much of it involving Mayfield. Late in the season, Mayfield went on Twitter to dispel a story about issues between him and coach Kevin Stefanski. He called the report "clickbait" and added "many other Cleveland local media continue to be drama stirring reporters with no sources or facts." Mayfield's wife, Emily, also used her Twitter platform to claim he received death threats. Mayfield downplayed those and described his attackers and critics on social

media as "keyboard warriors."

The 26-year-old Mayfield injured his left, non-throwing shoulder in Week 2 while trying to make a tackle and struggled all season. He recently underwent surgery in Los Angeles for a torn labrum and is expected to need more than four months to recover.

The team said he should begin light throwing in April.

Following the season, both Stefanski and Browns general manager Andrew Berry publicly supported Mayfield by saying they believe he will bounce back next season as their starter. However, it's likely the team will at least explore other options at quarterback during this offseason. □



**Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) looks to pass against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the first half an NFL football game, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, in Pittsburgh.**

Associated Press



# Baseball harmed itself more than Bonds ever did

By **JIM LITKE**  
AP Sports Columnist

Whatever harm Barry Bonds did to baseball pales in comparison to the damage baseball inflicted on itself both at the time and since. So say what you will about the steroids era, at least the games were still worth watching.

You can't say that about baseball today, assuming it's even available on a TV set where you live. The sport's popularity is buckling faster than the knees of a hitter fooled by Clayton Kershaw's curveball. The national audience for last season's World Series — roughly 12 million viewers — was less than half what it was barely two decades ago. A friend tried to put the best face on that vanishing act by saying baseball has become a "regional" game; that's just another way of saying it's on the road to becoming a niche sport.

If you drew up a list of things that would make baseball better tomorrow, reckoning with its past would be lucky to make it. Yet it might help explain how we got here. Bonds and a few of his juiced fellow travelers — notably Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, whose eligibility on the writers' ballot for the Hall of Fame ran out this year as well — put on a fireworks show that pulled the game out of a rut dug when owners canceled the remainder of the 1994 season after players went on



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds celebrates after hitting his 756th career home run against the Washington Nationals during the fifth inning of their baseball game in San Francisco, on Aug. 7, 2007.

Associated Press

strike. People on both sides of the labor-management divide got rich, which is why nobody bothered to ask where all the pyrotechnics came from.

In case you haven't heard, we're already eight weeks into another lockout and there are precious few signs it will be settled before the scheduled start of spring training on Feb. 16. Even if camps open by then, there isn't nearly enough time — let alone will — to make improvements to the product on the field. And the game desperately needs overhauling.

Most pitchers only know

how to throw two pitches anymore, fast and faster. Hitters have become a procession of strikeouts, interrupted by the occasional solo home run. No one bothers to run the bases anymore. If it looks as though players are simply standing around, that's because most of them are. "This is a game designed to be played by nine men, not two," is how Theo Epstein, the boy-wonder former general manager who ended World Series championship droughts in both Boston and Chicago, said last summer.

Epstein is currently leading

Major League Baseball's latest effort to examine how and where the game could be tweaked to help lure back longtime fans and attract a new generation. The plan is to avoid the kind of short-term fix that steroids provided last time. "No one is looking to reinvent the wheel here," Epstein said in the same interview. "This is the greatest game in the world and we want to preserve the essence. A lot of this is restoring the game to the way it's historically been played." Tradition was baseball's strong suit for a century or so — until suddenly it

wasn't. Fans alienated by the truncated 1994 season and lost World Series that year stubbornly stayed away from ballparks upon baseball's return. At least at first. But then, in short order, Bonds and Sosa and Mark McGwire began routinely launching baseballs where none had gone before and people flocked back to watch. Baseball didn't just get its mojo back — remember the Nike ad, "Chicks dig the long ball"? — suddenly it was hip, too. Now, of course, we know what fueled that rocket ship. There's still no reliable number for how many players used performance-enhancing drugs, but Bonds and the rest of the inflatable sluggers so dominated the screen that nobody thought to look at the players in the background. For every slugger like Rafael Palmeiro who got busted while cashing in the big bucks, there were plenty more Ryan Franklins, then a 32-year-old journeyman reliever just trying to make one more paycheck. No matter, the owners paid them all and looked the other way because they kept the turnstiles spinning. Drug testing with penalties for positive tests began in 2004 and though Bonds always beat them, three years later not a single team offered the 43-year-old slugger a contract even though he was still one of the best hitters in the game. □



Anthony Joshua of Britain waves to spectators after his defeat to Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine in their WBA (Super), WBO and IBF boxing title bout at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, on Sept. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Anthony Joshua has received an offer to pull out of his rematch against Oleksandr Usyk to

allow the Ukrainian to fight Tyson Fury for the title of undisputed world heavyweight champion, his promoter said Wednesday.

## Joshua receives offer to pull out of rematch with Usyk

Eddie Hearn said it might make sense for Joshua to agree to step aside and then fight the winner of Usyk-Fury. "If the plan makes sense from a development point of view — working with a new trainer, maybe having a fight first, going into a much bigger fight — I can

see the sense in it," Hearn said on the DAZN Boxing Show. "But with Anthony, it's never been a case of, 'Here's some money, does it tempt you?' Because he's not about that. He's a throwback fighter. It's about legacy." Hearn didn't reveal the value of the offer but said it's ultimately Joshua's decision: "AJ is the boss — he will rule it out or not rule it out."

The heavyweight division

is in suspense while Fury, the WBC champion, concludes drawn-out negotiations with Dillian Whyte, the mandatory challenger, over a world title fight. The Fury and Whyte camps have been unable to come to an agreement over the split of fight revenue and the WBC granted them an extension of the negotiation period until Friday, when purse bids will take place if no agreement has been reached. □